



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Park Authority Bans All Fires on Parkland

The Fairfax County Park Authority, in concert with a statewide fire ban which went into effect midday Friday, October 19, 2007, has banned all open fires in its parks effective immediately. Prolonged dry weather has increased the potential for dangerous forest fires and the public is being asked to help reduce the risk. The fire ban will remain in place until further notice.

The fire ban applies to all campgrounds and picnic shelters, as well as permanent and portable grills. Park visitors are also asked to refrain from smoking in the parks during this period of heightened fire risk. Failure to comply with the open fire ban is considered a Class III misdemeanor and violators may be prosecuted.

A Virginia Department of Forestry spokesman notes, "Human carelessness, negligence or actual intent caused nearly all of the 1,350 wild land fires we've had in Virginia this year."

The Fairfax County Park Authority manages over 425 parks across nearly 24,000 acres of parkland, including RECenters, nature centers, historic sites, golf courses, ball fields and natural areas.

For more information, contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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